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Message Text

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50
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-04 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

CU-02 INT-05 STR-01 CEA-01 /089 W
---------- 119820
R 250910Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8225
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEAN MY
SUBJECT: ASEAN JOINT COMMITTEES MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR, OCTOBER 22-24

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5056

1. SUMMARY: ASEAN MEETING FOCUSED EFFORTS ON STREAM-LINING ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES TO ELIMINATE OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATIVE FUNCTIONS AND RESPON-SIBILITIES. QUESTION OF SHAPE AND FORM OF NEW ASEAN SECRETARIAT WILL BE TOPIC OF SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN BANGKOK IN NOVEMBER. JOINT MARKETING OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES BY ASEAN MEMBERS NOT ON AGENDA BUT IS BEING STUDIED BY ASEAN. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING MFA OFFICIAL, WHO WORKS ON ASEAN AND REGIONAL
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ORGANIZATIONS, ASEAN JOINT COMMITTEES MEETING FOCUSED

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ON TRYING STREAMLINE ASEAN COMMITTEES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. RECOGNIZING OVERLAPPING FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES EXIST AMONG ELEVEN PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND FIVE SPECIAL COMMITTEES, ASEAN IS STUDYING WAYS TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION AND IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMITTEES, BUT NO DECISIONS MADE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME.

3. MEETING DID NOT DEAL WITH QUESTION OF NEW PERMANENT SECRETARIAT WHICH WILL BE TOPIC OF SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR BANGKOK NEXT MONTH. ASEAN MEMBERS HOPE TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS OF SIZE, ROLE, AND FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARIAT AT BANGKOK MEETING. AS PRIME MINISTER RAZAK STATED IN OPENING ADDRESS (REFTEL), MALAYSIA FAVORS SMALL SECRETARIAT ORIENTED TOWARD ASSISTING ASEAN COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL SECRETARIATS. MALAYSIA BELIEVES SINGAPORE ALSO SUPPORTS SMALL, SERVICE-TYPE SECRETARIAT, BUT REMAINING ASEAN MEMBERS PLUMPING FOR LARGER, MORE POWERFUL AND PRESTIGIOUS POLICY-MAKING SECRETARIAT.

4. JOINT MARKETING OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER, TIN, PALM OIL, AND TIMBER BY ASEAN MEMBERS WAS NOT ON AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING, BUT IS BEING STUDIED BY ASEAN AND SEPARATELY BY MALAYSIA.

5. COMMENT: PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 25 STATES THAT MEETING PROVIDED FORUM FOR FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF IDEAS TOWARD EVENTUAL SOLUTION OF URGENT PROBLEMS WHICH TEND IMPEDE WORK OF ASEAN. FROM PRESS STATEMENT AND CONVERSATION WITH MFA OFFICIAL, IT APPEARS ON SURFACE THAT NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS RESULTED FROM THIS MEETING. EMBASSY VIEWS KUALA LUMPUR MEETING SIGNIFICANT AS PART OF INCREASED DIALOGUE AND QUICKENING PACE OF ASEAN EVIDENCED BY ASEAN SECRETARIES-GENERAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE SEPTEMBER 2-4, ASEAN-EEC MEETING IN JAKARTA SEPTEMBER 24-25, MEETING ON SECRETARIAT IN BANGKOK IN NOVEMBER, AND ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER OR JANUARY IN JAKARTA PLUS NUMEROUS MEETINGS OF VARIOUS ASEAN PERMANENT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.
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